RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

MARCH- 1988

232 Ogden Avenue – Jersey City, N.J. 07307 – (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL.

MEETING MINUTES

As usual the general meeting of the RNA was "chock-full" of community news and projects. One of the best reports of the evening came from Planning and Development Committee chairman Randy Sanford. He was glad to report that our two year fight with Investment Properties III had finally been successfully concluded. The developer had been granted the variances he needed to construct a building that was just as the RNA had requested it should be, when we were first shown the proposed plans for the project. The site of the project is the vacant lot just south of the Pohlmann Hall building. The developer also agreed to put a restrictive covenant in their deed that will prohibit the present, or any future, owners from building on the Palisade cliffs located within their property. Other reports given concerned the Heights Reservoirs, the LoewsTheatre, waterfront development, Riverview Park and the local crime situation.
Our guests of the evening were Richard and Liz vonStaten of the Webster Street Block Association, who came to inform us and ask our assistance with a serious problem of young people loitering, making unnecessary noise and harrassing the residents of Webster Ave. and Franklin St. A decision of how best to deal with this problem will be made after the residents meet with Capt. Galvin.

Finally it was time to hold the election of officers for our organization for the current year. Candidates left the meeting room while the votes were counted for each office. (For the results of the elction, see the article on page 7 .)

Please join us next month and see the newly elected officers in action. You will also meet Mike Barnes, head of the Engineering Dept. and hear the plans for Mountain and Ravine Roads. Be there Tuesday, March 8th, 7:30 PM at the Harbor View Health Care Center's second floor solarium.

Secretary
Maria E. Tuzzo

MARCH AGENDA

Guest Speaker...

Michael Barnes
Engineering Dept.
Supervisor

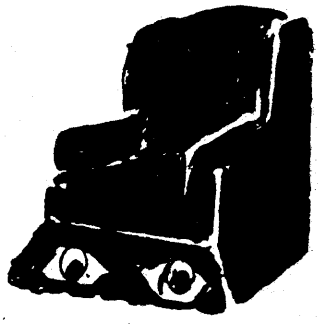
Discussion...

Mountain Road
Revine Road etc.

Other Topics...

Flea Market
Spring Clean-up
Recycling

Refreshments to follow



Under the Chair

At our next meeting, on March 8th, Micheal Barnes of the Engineering Department will be our guest speaker. As reported in the last RNA newsletter, the Engineering Dep't. has made a commitment to repair New York Avenue (Ravine Road) and Mountain Road. Mr. Barnes will talk about these two projects, plus plans for the other access roads in our neighborhood.

With all the news in the papers recently about the N.J. DEP's attempt to resolve the City's chromium problem, RNA thought it would be helpful to publish the telephone number of the City's Hazardous Material Program: 547-6848. This office, coordinated by one of our own neighbors, Tex Aldredge, is responsible for responding to any chemical emergencies and inspecting suspected sites of toxic contamination. These problems range from gasoline or oil spills to paint fumes in the air to the serious dangers of the approximately 100 chromium sites already located in the city. Other numbers to call, if you need help, are the Hudson Regional Health Commission: 485-7001 and the 24-hour Dept. of Environmental Protection Hotline: 609-292-7172.

The J.C. Incinerator Authority's Recycling Program will start in our neighborhood on Wednesday, April 6th. As of this date, all residents will be responsible, every Wednesday, for seperating their glass bottles and jars, alumimum cans, newspapers, used motor oil and leaves for curbside pickup by the Incinerator Authority.This recycling pickup will not interfere with our regular Monday and Thursday garbage pickups. Newspaper pickups will be eliminated on every second Monday. Additional information can be obtained by calling the Incinerator Authority at 432-4645. RNA has invited Thomas Kileen of the Authority to be a guest speaker at our April 12th meeting to discuss this new important program.

The Office of Property Conservation is the city agency responsible for inspecting all vacant and abandoned buildings. If necessary, they will board up the structure to prevent trespassers from entering an open building. The owners will then be notified and billed for the boarding up. Because of last year's fires and the recent series of house break-ins, the neighborhood is concerned about the security of all buildings. If anyone is aware of a problem in any of our many vacant buildings on Palisade and Ogden Avenues, the telephone number to call is 547-4825. However, if there is someone in the building, the first call should be to the police at 547-5477 to report a break-in or a prowler.

UPDATE: THE HEIGHTS RESERVOIRS

At the February 8th meeting, Vincent Monaco, aspeaker from the state DEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water confirmed the J.C. Water Department's assertion that the two open reservoirs are obsolete because they are not in compiance with state regulations that require reservoirs to be covered to prevent contamination by pollutants. These pollutants range from the organic waste of birds and small animals to the toxic fumes of the nearby industrial plant. Mr. Monaco also supported the Water Dept's plan to install an enclosed storage/surge tank in Reservoir #2 that would serve the same function as the open reservoir and and provide treated, unpolluted and aerated water to Downtown Jersey City. (At present Res.#3 is filled with water and Res.#2 has been empty for about ten years.) Director Tom

Neilan and Steven Stanizano of the Water Dept. were also present to answer questions.
The second part of the meeting was devoted to the ongoing discussion of what would become of this reservoir land (approximately 50 acres) once it was not needed by the Water Dept. Elections were also held and the following people were chosen to sit on the steering committee: Lou Artifico, Karen Dunne, Arthur Fabian, Janet Moore, Fred Payne and Vito Brunetti.
As we go to print, ameeting is scheduled for February 29th, with the other various community groups that have formed around the reservoir issue for the purpose of beginning a dialogue to work together.

ALERT: WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

On February 10th, the state DEP's Division of Coastal Resources released a series of proposals modifying their existing waterfront development regulations. These proposals would assure public access to the Hudson River and preserve views from the Palisade cliffs on the New Jersey waterfront from the George Washington Bridge to Bayonne. As Douglas Wehrle, DEP regional supervisor, stated "The regulations would preserve a sense of openness on the water's edge...The rule does not limit building height but links building height to the amount of public space on the piers." The main guidlines would:

a) require developers to allow public access on the waterfront walkways,

b) restrict the height of buildings on piers to 60 feet or by drawing a line from atop the Palisade cliffs to the midpoint of the Hudson River (buildings would not be allowed to rise above this imaginary line),

c) set requirements for the amount of public space on the piers (this would limit the density of buildings by requiring a certain amount of public space surrounding the structure), and

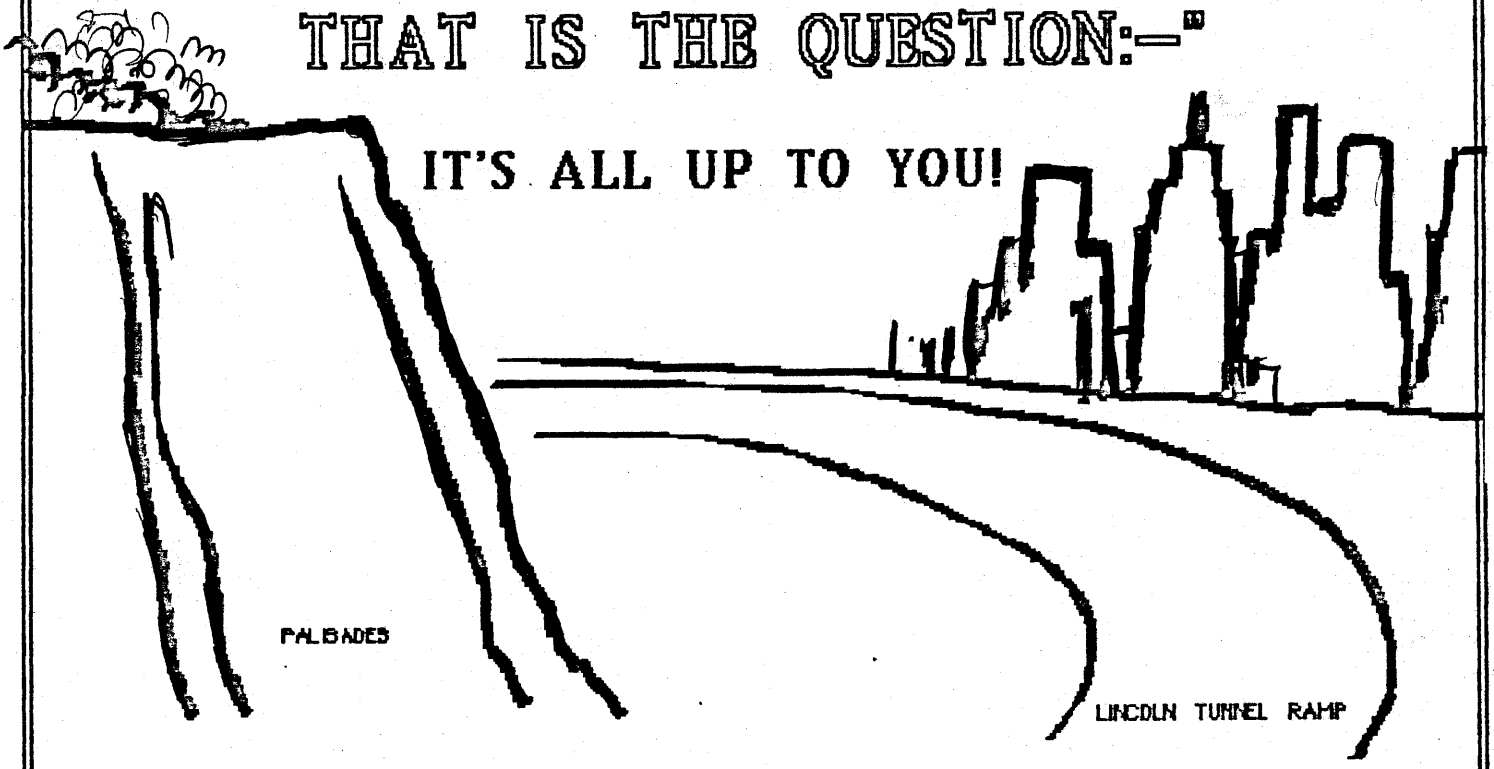
d) require developers to "step back" buildings on piers to lessen the effect of tall structures towering over the public access space.

The area's major developers: Newport, Hartz Mountain, Arcorp, and Colgate-Palmolive immediately protested that these new rules would have disastrous effects on their developments on the waterfront. (Harborside Financial Center in Jersey City, was the only developer to support these new guidelines.) The present Weehawken administration and its supporters also objected to these rules, stating that they would deny the city much needed revenues and construction jobs from these future projects.
The plan, however, was endorsed by the N.J. Regional Plan Association and the Waterfront Coalition of Hudson and Bergen, an umbrella group of local environmental committees.
Obviously our neighborhood's concern is to protect our view of the Hudson River and N.Y.C. skyline from Riverview Park and from the many private residences that sit atop the Palisades. It is this amazing site that we wake up to each morning and enjoy at the end of the day. But just as important, is the need for preserving this view of the River and skyline all along the Jersey coastline for the entire public - not just the developers and their clients.
As we go to print, the DEP has extended the public comment period for a year to allow further discussion between the developers and the communities.
What we as a group and as individuals must now do is to let the DEP know our position: inform them of the travesty of justice that would be done if the developers have their way and shut out the public from the River's edge and the view of the skyline. The address to send your comments are:

Richard T. Dewling, Commissioner
N.J. Dept. of Environmental Protection
CN 402
Trenton, N.J. 08625

OUR PRICELESS VIEW

"TO BE, OR NOT TO BE, — THAT IS THE QUESTION:—"



The view of the Hudson River and the New York Skyline is threatened by highrise office buildings. The only way this spectacular view can be saved is by writing immediately to:

Richard T. Dewling, Commissioner
N.J. Department of Environmental Protection
CN 402
Trenton, N.J. 08625

Let the commissioner know that you support the DEP policy for the proposed view plane and sight lines of the Palisades and the Lincoln Tunnel Ramp in the Hudson Riverfront area.

The State (DEP, Division of Coastal Resources) recognizes that extraordinary views need protection and is proposing rule changes for the Hudson River Waterfront. Influential developers and some Planning Board members are actively opposing the rule changes so that high rise towers may be built that will block the view.

Every letter or postcard counts! Once the highrises go up and block the river and skyline, it will be too late. Letters or postcards may be very short and needn't be typewritten. It was your previous input that motivated the DEP to propose these rule changes. Your support now can make these proposals a reality. Remember, it's numbers that count. If you cherish the view, it is urgent that you get as many people as possible to write.

Thank you, WEEHAWKEN ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, Box 3285 Weehawken, NJ 07087

CONRAD'S CORNER

When Leon and Mary Strauss purchased the St. Louis Fox theatre in 1981, much larger than our Loews with 4,500 seats, it was in sad shape and was restored by a construction company for two million plus dollars with the aid of volunteers and organ buffs.

Next to our classical Hudson County Courthouse with its magnificent rotunda the Loews Italian Baroque interior, the largest auditorium in Hudson County is one of the finest classical theatre interiors in the Metropolitan area, much better than the Metropolitan area, much better than the Metropolitan Opera in Lincoln Center.

With maintenance contractors for the roof, heating and electrical overhaul and advice from Jehova Witnesses we should be able to put the Loews in first-class shape. Just cleaning up the interior with a careful dusting and touching up plaster details is all it needs. In fact repainting the interior with the wrong paint could raise havoc with the accoustics. Cleaning drapes, reupholstering the seats is all it needs. The sheetrock dividing partitions were made to be removeable so that no major construction is necessary, just a good clean up and repair. We should be able to do it for less than two million.

The consultant's figure of twelve million for a first class job has now jumped to sixteen million, all of which sounds like storm window salesmen are now in the consulting business of making a junket out of restoring the Loews.

Hartz generous offer of giving us the theatre free for three years and then taking it back if we cannot restore it in time will cut off any funding from the State because we will not have title to the theatre as a public building.

Since the Loews can become a county cultural center the taxpayers of Jersey City need not fear a raise in their taxes from acquiring the Loews. The increase in taxes comes from the wholesale granting of tax abatement to developers and the increase of services the city has to provide. The 100 million Green Acres Bond Issue voted for in the last election has 45 million set aside for historic preservation. Let's get our share of it to restore the Loews.

The state also has a 19 million budget for the performing arts. Hudson County has only received 158 thousand dollars. If we got our full share we could almost run the Loews for free, but first we have to buy the Loews from Hartz with a county bond issue to get the money. Let's do it and get the show on the road.

In Memoriam

We deeply regret the passing of Captain Fritz and wish to extend our sympathy to his family as well as to the members of the police department. We will all miss him and his wonderful leadership.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

On Wednesday, February 17th, the Planning and Development Committee met at vice-chairman Bob Lewis' house to review plans for the renovations and additions to be made on 102 and 108 Ogden Avenue (the two buildings at the south-east corner of Ogden). Four RNA members met with the owner's lawyer, contractor and representative to discuss the project.

I am happy to report that everyone was pleased with the plans, and we will make a statement to that effect, on Thursday, March 3rd, when this project is scheduled to go before the Board of Adjsutment. Unfortunately, this will occur before our next general meeting, so the committee will only be reporting on this work instead of voting on it.

The work to be done on these two buildings (which, incidently, has started already) is what is known as "gut-rehab." This means that almost everything is going to be demolished except the outside walls, the stairhall walls, and the floors, while all new doors, windows, and finishes will be installed. The plan of the apartment layout will also be different. The new units will be sold as condominiums - not rentals. (surprised?!)

The owners have to appeal to the City for a zoning variance because they want to build a penthouse on part of the roof, and this will slightly increase the allowable total area of the building.

In general, the committee feels that it is good for our neighborhood that these two buildings are being renovated. Some members remembered that these were formerly problem buildings - full of tenants that were a detriment to the community. We thought it was good that two buildings with nice old street facades were being renovated instead of demolished. Our only reservation is that there is no parking being provided for the new condo-owners. Not much can be done about this since the owners are not required to provide parking for buildings that are only being renovated. Furthmore, no one knows where the owners could get parking, even if they wnated to provide it. Consider this, however: there will be 23 new condos from both buildings, and, while probably few of the former tenants owned cars, all of the new ones eventually will. Now, how are 23 to 46 cars going to be accommodated on that tight south end of Ogden Avenue, one wonders?

Randy Sanford, chairman

VOLUNTEERING...A GOOD FEELING

Volunteering makes you feel good. I should know. I am a new volunteer at Christ Hospital. Currently I am one of the operators covering the "Tel Med" phone line.

Do you have a few hours to spare each week? Then being a volunteer could be very rewarding. I speak from personal experience when I say that the information I bring to the public, in my capacity as a "Tel Med" operator, gives me a great deal of satisfaction.

"Tel Med" is always in need of additional staff, men or women, so that phone coverage can be maintained, but it isn't the only need. There are many ways to volunteer at Christ Hospital and a phone call to Volunteer Service may be of help in answering any questions you may have in this regard. It has certainly been a rewarding experience for me.

Gert Bogdan-Volunteer

Anyone interested in volunteering, in any capacity, please contact: Nanci B. Smith, Director Volunteer Services, Christ Hospital, 795-8301.

COUNCILMAN LETTER

(The following is a letter from Councilman Tom Hart to RNA.)

February 16, 1988

Dear RNA Members,

A note to let you know that my office has addressing the problems which are recurring and new in and about Griffith and Palisade Avenues as well as a few others which might affect your membership.

1. The problems, myriad problems, emanating from the New Neighborhood garage at 33 Griffith Stree.
2. The presence, unauthorized to my knowledge, of video game machines at Joe's Refrigeration Repair at Griffith and Palisade Ave.
3. The problems of sanitation violations, garbage on the sidewalks and streets, along Griffith.
4. The growing problem of parking and traffic at Holland Street.
5. The growing problem of traffic tieups at Palisade and Bowers as a result of trucks delivering to businesses thereat.
6. The parking of vehicles on the sidewalk at the garage at 523 Palisade Avenue.

I look forward to seeing you soon. Meanwhile, I want to let you know that we're addressing these issues.

Sincerely,

Tom Hart

VOTER REGISTRATION

Anyone who wishes voter registration forms, please see Kathy Brennan at the next general meeting. The meeting will be Tuesday, March 8th, at the Harbor View Health Care Center at 7:30 PM. Remember, it is your responsibility to your block - your neighborhood - your city - your state - your nation to vote and let your opinion be known. Our government is based on voter participation.

ELECTION RESULTS

The election of officers for the Riverview Neighborhood Assn. was held at the February general meeting. The nominations, still open at the close of the January meeting, were reviewed and then closed.

Three nominees asked to have their names removed from consideration in the vote. Randy Sanford declined his nomination as chairman, and both Claire Ryan and Kathy Brennan declined their nominations as secretary and treasurer,respectively.

The position of vice-chairperson and secretary were unopposed, thus giving the office, for fourth term, of vice-chairman to Bob Lewis and a third term, as secretary, to Maria Tuzzo.

The office of chairperson had three candidates. Vito Brunetti, Bob Lewis, and Maria Tuzzo. Mr Brunetti won by a resounding margin. The office of treasurer had two nominees. Incumbent Randy Sanford and newcomer Bob Murray. Mr Murray won by a slim margin.

The position of Sgt.- at- arms had three candidates. The incumbent Jack Rea, and first time nominees Ernest Quintero and Mike Moloughney. Mr Rea was elected for a second term.

Congratulations to all our officers, past and present. Their efforts in our behalf are greatly appreciated. We look forward to another great year of leadership in the R.N.A.

In an effort to recognize the commitment that our younger members are willing to make,the chair asked the runners-up for the office of Sgt.-at-arms if they would be willing to assume the role if Jack Rea was unable to attend a meeting. Also, they were asked to represent us at the monthly Community Relations meeting held at the sixth precinct. They both readily agreed to this proposal.

The Editor

CARDIAC REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Christ Hospital is offering a medically supervised exercise and health education program to improve your cardiovascular status, prevent further injury and/or attacks, and help you look and feel better. For more information contact Christ Hospital's Division of Cardiology, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The phone number is 795 - 8334.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The new year has arrived and with it the time of renewal. Just as you renew your drivers license or your auto registration, both considered to be important to your existence, so too you should renew your membership in the Riverview Neighborhood Assn. A membership card in the R.N.A. is also a necessary part of your existence ... your neighborhood existence. The R.N.A. can not function without members and a great many of the things that the R.N.A. is striving to accomplish will never be achieved without the support of the neighborhood for which it was founded in the first place.

The annual dues for membership is $3.00 and it is a small price to pay when you consider all that can come of your participation in a unified effort with your neighbors. The more members we have, the louder our voice will be when we raise it for improvement of conditions in our city, or for improvement of essential services.. The membership fee goes toward the cost of printing and mailing out the newsletter each month. The newsletter is considered one of our best assets.

So keep the news flowing and the fight going. Come to the general meeting on March 8th at the Harborview Health Care Center, and before you say hello to your neighbors stop at the membership table and sign up for 1988.

The Executive Committee

LETTERS.....

We received a thank you letter from the Salvation Army for our efforts at Thanksgiving and Christmas on behalf of the needy. It reads as follows:

Riverview Neighborhood Assn.
Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your kind contribution to our Holiday effort for 1987.

Your contribution may have come in the form of food ....toys....money.... or time spent with those less fortunate....all this and more go into wrapping up a successful gift of sharing in our community.

I want you to know that YOU ARE SPECIAL, special to the Salvation Army and to the people of our community.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING....THANK YOU FOR SHARING....THANK YOU FOR BEING YOU!

God bless you during the coming year.

Sincerely,
Lt. Roberto Chavez

IRISH LAMB STEW

2 pounds boneless lamb cubes
1 quart boiling water
1 bay leaf
2 onions, quartered
2 teaspoons salt (or less to taste)
4 potatoes, quartered
3 carrots, cubed
2 turnips, diced (optional)
1 or 2 stalks celery, diced
1 package (10 ozs.) frozen peas
3 Tbs. flour
¼ cup cold water
Additional salt if necessary
Pepper to taste
Chopped parsley for garnish

Cover lamb cubes with boiling water. Add bay leaf, onions and salt. Bring to boil, cover, reduce heat and simmer gently until meat is almost tender,(about 1½ hours).Discard bay leaf. Add potatoes, carrots, turnips and celery and cook 30 minutes longer. Add peas for last 5 minutes. Remove meat and vegetables to a serving dish. Mix flour with cold water, add to the gravy. Bring to a boil, cook, stirring until gravy is thickened and smooth. Season to taste. Pour gravy over lamb and vegetables and garnish with parsley. Makes 8 servings.

OFFICE OF ADVOCACY FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Our office is ready, willing and able to serve you. If you need help or information, just give us a call. This office is staffed by handicapped individuals that know and care about your problems.

The service is free, the information is free, and the literature is free.

Location: City Hall Room # B-6
280 Grove Street
Jersey City, 07302

Tel. # 547-6875, 6882

National Rehabilitation Information Center

This facility provides callers with comprehensive information on a variety of subjects, including products, resources, adaptive aids and equipment, and research.

Tel. # 1-800-24-NARIC or
(202) 635-5826 (voice/TDD)

Jobs Accomodations Network

This facility provides information on the employability of the handicapped.

Address: Job Accomodations Network
Box 468
Morgantown, WV 26505

(All information is courtesy of the ACCESS newsletter.)

HEIGHTS SOCIETY
GEE! IT'S A SHAME THAT A PARK WHERE KIDS PLAY AND HAVE COMPETITIONS HAS SUCH A SAD NAME
?
GIUSE
VE
YOU KNOW, GIUSEPPE... THAT PARK, "PERISHING FIELD"...
OH, NO JOSE... YOU MEAN PERSHING FIELD

Jersey City Museum

"And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon"
1987 (acrylic and fabric collage on canvas)

MEET THE ARTIST : EMMA AMOS

March 2 - March 31, 1988

Jersey City Museum
472 Jersey Avenue
Jersey City, N.J. 07302
(201) 451-0802

MEET THE ARTIST is a series of four one-person shows with related educational programs led by the artists. This series is made possible by a grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

SHOWDOWN THRASH!

an exhibition of Environmental works by

DEAN HOWELL

Drawings-Paintings-Scuptures

YOU AND I ARE MAKING HISTORY! OUR GENERATIONS ARE THE FIRST LIVING THINGS THAT MUST WONDER IF, WHETHER OR NOT, WE WILL BREATH TO DEATH...WITH THIS IN MIND, COME TO MY EXHIBITION AT THE O ROE !

O ROE ELECTRIC ART SPACE, 328 Adams Street, Hoboken, N.J.

February 26 - March 20, 1988 Saturday and Sunday : 1 - 6 PM